

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 BIB-01 TRSE-00 DHA-02 /061 W  
-----061127Z 021085 /14

R 051700Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ROME  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4405  
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMCONSUL GENOA  
AMCONSUL MILAN  
AMCONSUL NAPLES

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, IT, FR  
SUBJECT: MARCHAIS VISIT TO ITALY

REF: FLORENCE 267 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY. FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY (PCF) SECRETARY GEORGE MARCHAIS DEPARTED ROME MAY 3 FOLLOWING A FIVE-DAY VISIT TO ITALY DIVIDED BETWEEN POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS AND SIGHTSEEING. TALKS WITH ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY (PCI) SECRETARY BERLINGUER WERE PART OF WHAT HAS NOW BECOME A REGULAR SERIES OF CONTACTS. THE EMPHASIS OF THE TALKS WAS ON FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES AND THERE APPEARED TO BE A GENERAL CONSENSUS OF VIEWS WITH THE PCF LEADER TAKING A POSITION SOMEWHAT CLOSER TO THAT OF THE PCI ON THE QUESTION OF ELECTIONS FOR THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT. DURING HIS STAY IN ROME, MARCHAIS ALSO MET WITH ITALIAN SOCIALIST PARTY (PSI) SECRETARY CRAXI. END SUMMARY.

1. PCF SECRETARY MARCHAIS DEPARTED FROM ROME ON  
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MAY 3 FOLLOWING A FIVE-DAY VISIT WHICH PERMITTED HIM TO MIX BUSINESS WITH PLEASURE. THE VISIT WAS THE THIRD IN WHAT HAS BY NOW BECOME A REGULAR EXCHANGE OF FORMALIZED CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN MARCHAIS AND PCI SECRETARY BERLINGUER BEGUN IN NOVEMBER 1975.

2. JUDGING FROM THE COMPOSITION OF THE DELEGATIONS

AT THE CONSULTATIONS--MARCHAIS WAS ACCOMPANIED BY PCF FOREIGN SECTION CHIEF KANAPA WHILE BERLINGUER WAS ASSISTED BY HIS FOREIGN AFFAIRS SPECIALISTS GIAN CARLO PAJETTA AND SERGIO SEGRE--, PRESS REPORT ON, AND THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE, THE TALKS CONCENTRATED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY ON MATTERS DEALING WITH FOREIGN AND INTER-STATE RELATIONS. THIS CONTRASTS SHARPLY WITH THE PREVIOUS ROUNDS OF DISCUSSIONS WHICH DEALT PRIMARILY WITH INTER-PARTY RELATIONS. AT THE SAME TIME, IT APPEARS THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME THERE WERE NO DISCERNIBLE DIFFERENCES IN VIEW BETWEEN THE TWO DELEGATIONS ON IMPORTANT QUESTIONS ON THE AGENDA. THIS IS PARTICULARLY TRUE ON THE SUBJECT OF ELECTIONS FOR THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT WITH MARCHAIS, AT LEAST FOR COSMETIC PURPOSES, MOVING TO THE PCI POSITION ON UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE ALTHOUGH HEDGING HIS STANCE BY POSING THE CONDITION THAT THE PARLIAMENT NOT BECOME AN ORGANIZATION THAT INFRINGES UPON NATIONAL RIGHTS.

3. THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE (WE ASSUME THE TEXT IS AVAILABLE TO THE DEPARTMENT FROM FBIS) REITERATES THE COMMITMENT OF THE TWO PARTIES TO THE JOINT DOCUMENT MARCHAIS AND BERLINGUER SIGNED ON NOVEMBER 15, 1975. ADDITIONALLY, THE COMMUNIST LEADERS PLEDGED THEIR SUPPORT FOR EFFORTS TO FIND SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS CONFRONTING FRANCE AND ITALY, AND FOR THE SEARCH FOR DETENTE AND FOR GREATER COOPERATION BETWEEN ALL DEMOCRATIC FORCES IN EUROPE. THE COMMUNIQUE ALSO NOTED THE HOPE OF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TWO PARTIES THAT THE FORTHCOMING BELGRADE CONFERENCE WILL CONTRIBUTE EFFECTIVELY TO THE INTEGRAL APPLICATION OF THE DECISIONS OF THE HELSINKI ACT BY ALL THE SIGNATORY STATES. FINALLY, THE TWO PARTIES COMMITTEE THEMSELVES TO WORKING FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF FRENCH-ITALIAN BILATERAL RELATIONS. TO THIS END WE UNDERSTAND, ALTHOUGH IT IS NOT MENTIONED IN THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE, THAT THEY ESTABLISHED A MIXED COMMISSION TO EXPLORE METHODS BY WHICH THIS GOAL COULD BE ACHIEVED.

4. PRIOR TO LEAVING ROME, MARCHAIS PAID AN OFFICIAL CALL ON PSI SECRETARY CRAXI. MARCHAIS EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT ON A FUTURE VISIT TO ROME HE WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH LEADERS OF OTHER POLITICAL PARTIES, INCLUDING THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS.

5. COMMENT. FROM THE ITALIAN STANDPOINT, THE MARCHAIS VISIT MADE A SUBSTANTIALLY SMALLER SPLASH THAN THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS BETWEEN THE TWO

LEADERS OR THE SO-CALLED EUROCOMMUNIST SUMMIT OF  
EARLY MARCH IN MADRID. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE TONE  
IS EXCEEDINGLY INTERESTING BECAUSE IT REFLECTS THAT  
OF TWO PARTIES WHICH FEEL THEY HAVE NOW ACHIEVED  
GOVERNMENTAL POWER. ON THIS OCCASION, IT SEEMS  
THAT MARCHAIS'S PUBLIC PRONOUNCEMENTS HERE IN ITALY  
WERE SOMEWHAT MORE OPTIMISTIC THAN THOSE OF THE  
ITALIANS, PRESUMABLY EXPLAINED BY THE FACT THAT HE  
WAS TALKING IN THE WAKE OF THE FRENCH LOCAL ELECTIONS  
WHILE THE ITALIANS ARE HAVING TROUBLE DIGESTING AND  
CONSOLIDATING THE GAINS WHICH THEY WERE CELEBRATING SO  
OSTENTATIOUSLY FOLLOWING LAST JUNE'S NATIONAL ELECTIONS  
HERE. FINALLY, THE CONCENTRATION ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES  
COULD SUGGEST THAT ON IDEOLOGICAL AND ECONOMIC ISSUES  
THE TWO PARTIES STILL HAVE WIDE DIFFERENCES WHICH THEY WOULD  
PREFER TO PAPER OVER, IN THIS CASE BY SIMPLY IGNORING  
THEM.GARDNER  
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## Message Attributes

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